

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Ellen Gavin
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LeRoy Koppendrayner
Phyllis A. Reha

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from the Altura Exchange to the
St. Charles, Rochester, Eyota and Winona
Exchanges

ISSUE DATE: December 13, 2002

DOCKET NO. P-430, 421/CP-99-1757

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS
AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Polling of telephone subscribers in the Altura exchange took place between August 21, and October 11, 2002.

On October 24, 2002, the Commission met to consider the polling results for the EAS routes proposed between 1) the Altura exchange and the Winona exchange and 2) the Altura exchange and the Rochester-St. Charles local calling area (LCA).

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

**I. CERTIFICATION OF POLLING RESULTS: ALTURA TO WINONA AND
ALTURA TO THE ROCHESTER-ST. CHARLES LCA**

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in the Altura exchange voted in favor of EAS for both proposed routes: 1) Altura to Winona and 2) Altura to the Rochester-St. Charles LCA. The results were as follows:

Polling results for Altura to Winona

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Altura	Winona	\$3.13	\$6.27	62.6	128	71.5	51	28.5

Polling results for Altura to Rochester/St. Charles

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Altura	Rochester/St. Charles	\$3.72	\$7.44	62.6	117	65.4	62	34.6

II. ORDER FOR INSTALLATION

The third and final criterion for EAS is that a majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation.¹ Because a majority of the Altura customers returning their ballots voted in favor of the proposed EAS routes, the third and final criterion is met for each route.

Accordingly, the Commission will direct the telephone company for the petitioning exchange in this matter, Sprint Minnesota (Sprint or the Company), to implement then approved EAS routes within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order Sprint to coordinate implementation of EAS in the Altura exchange with Qwest Corporation (Qwest), the telephone company serving the Winona exchange and the Rochester-St. Charles LCA. The Commission will also require Sprint to file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order and to immediately file an explanation of the reasons for any subsequent change in that schedule.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Details regarding recovery of the non-recurring expenses caused by non-recurring costs of EAS balloting, further customer notices and the approval process for those notices, as well as tariff filing requirements, are addressed in the Ordering Paragraphs.

¹ The Commission has established three criteria for the installation of EAS. See In the Matter of an Investigation into the Appropriate Local Calling Scope, in Accordance with Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1994), ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION (February 26, 1996). In that Order, the third and final criterion was that if a majority of subscribers vote in favor of the installation of Extended Area Service (EAS), the Commission should order the telephone companies to install the service.

ORDER

1. The EAS route between the Altura exchange and the Winona exchange and the EAS route between Altura and the Rochester-St. Charles LCA are hereby approved. Sprint Minnesota (Sprint or the Company) shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.
2. Sprint shall coordinate the implementation of the EAS routes with Qwest (the company serving the Winona exchange and the Rochester-St. Charles LCA) and shall file an implementation schedule within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedule changes, the Company should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change.
3. Sprint shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff within 10 days of the date of the Order. The notice shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date (s). After approval, the Company shall serve the notice in the first possible billing cycle.
4. Sprint shall send final, Commission approved, notices to customers in the Altura exchange (the petitioning exchange), either by bill insert or separate mailing. The final notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional monthly rates, the date of implementation and any other pertinent information. The Company must issue these notices one month before they implement EAS.
5. Sprint shall make any requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation dates. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.
6. Qwest, the company serving the Winona exchange and the Rochester-St. Charles LCA, shall file proposed customer notices for customers in those exchanges for approval by Commission staff 90 days before the anticipated implementation dates for the approved routes. The notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. Qwest shall send the notices during billing cycles that conclude at least one month, but not more than two months, before EAS is implemented.
7. Sprint shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Order establishing the rates and terms for the two approved EAS routes. These tariff sheets shall be filed at least 30 days before implementation of the EAS routes. Once this is done, this docket shall be closed.

8. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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